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519235
Secret

Strabane Killings

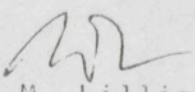
The Ambassador responded to the Department's approach to the British Embassy of 25 February.

He said, on instructions, that every incident, including this incident is automatically investigated.

He said he was instructed to express appreciation for Minister Quinn's remarks on the Strabane killings.

He said that his Government had repeatedly pointed out that the British Government does not sanction a shoot to kill policy. There is no question of the Security Forces being deprived of the resource to defend this fully. Security policy is carried out within the law and is answerable to the law. The minimum force is used and this precludes shooting where an ordinary arrest would be possible without undue risk.

I thanked the Ambassador for his response and asked whether the last sentence in particular could be used by the Minister in the Dail. He said he would enquire. He telephoned later to say that the Northern Ireland Office had asked that we should not use the formula in the last sentence. We could however say that the incident was being investigated and that we have been assured that there was no shoot to kill policy and that security policy operated within the law and was answerable to the law.


M. Lillis
27 February, 1985

c.c. PSM
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